

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 26 are pending, and claims 1 – 26 stand rejected. The applicant respectively traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1 – 26.

Claims 1- 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Naboulsi et. al. (US 5,805,591). “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed Cir. 1987).

Claim 1 requires:

“1. A user communication hub for providing communications services to an end user at a user location, wherein the user communication hub comprises:

a plurality of communication interfaces that are operational to communicate with a plurality of end-user communication devices that are located at the user location and that use a plurality of communications formats, wherein the communication interfaces are operational to convert between the communications formats and an ATM format, wherein at least one of the communication interfaces comprises an analog telephony interface that communicates with a telephone that is located at the user location and that uses an analog telephony format, wherein the analog telephony interface is operational to convert between the analog telephony format and the ATM format;

a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) interface that is coupled to the communications interfaces and a communication system and that is operational to communicate with the communications system using an ATM over DSL format.” (Underline added)

In the current invention, as claim 1 indicates, the user communication hub contains a DSL interface. The DSL interface is used to communicate with the communication systems, using ATM. In Naboulsi the communications between the hub and the system uses a coaxial cable (see column 4, lines 25 - 30). Coaxial cables (i.e. cable TV) are separate systems connected to households and are independent of phone distribution systems. The current invention enables the existing phone distribution system to be used with a larger number of services and higher performance, without having to run additional connections to the household. The current phone distribution system and current cable TV systems are not analogues technologies.

Because Naboulsi does not connect to the user location using a DSL connection, as required by claim 1, the examiner has not established the requirements for a *prima facie* case of anticipation. Therefore Claim 1 is allowable as written.

Claims 2 - 13 depend on allowable claim 1. Therefore claims 2 - 13 are also allowable.

Claim 14 also has the limitation that the user communication hub contains a DSL interface. The DSL interface is used to communicate with the communication systems, using ATM. The arguments for claim 1 (above) apply to claim 14. Therefore claim 14 is allowable as written.

Claims 15 - 26 depend on allowable claim 14. Therefore claims 15 - 26 are also allowable.

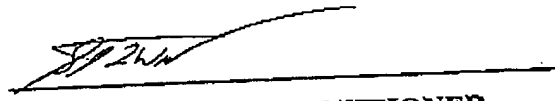
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1 - 26 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 - 26.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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